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D6 PREVIEW | MUSIC

THE GAZETTE, MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2006

Galaxie 500 brings its new album to the Spectrum's stage tonight.

LES FRANCOFOLIES – NOTES

Smooth ride with Lapointe and friends

For a pop artist who's just capped a whirlwind year with Quebec's hottest album (La Forêt des malaimés), Pierre Lapointe presented a surprisingly relaxed concept show (Voût Bleu) at the Spectrum on Wednesday night, putting the spotlight on guests Albin de la Simone, Dany Placard, Damien Robitaille, and bandmates Philippe B and Josiane Hébert. De la Simone, who performed a hit four-night stand at last year's Francos, got the biggest cheers with such deft, catchy tunes like Tu es là (making fun of "Jree") and the moving impressionistic portrait Elle fréquentait la rue Pigalle. Placard showed the rawest emotions, while multi-accented Ontarian Robitaille was an old-ment. Lapointe made no effort to hide the familial let's-put-on-a-show spontaneity of the evening. All told, a lovely, low-key show by a young star whose biggest satisfaction seems to be sharing and taking his audiences on musical rides. After Voût Bleu, he saw Rouge last night at Metropolis with rock influenced cohorts from Malajube, Karkwa and more.

JUAN RODRIGUEZ

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Olivier Langevin – producer, composer, guitarist and leader of Galaxie 500, among other groups – looks like he's weathered many a rock 'n' roll storm. Yet with his wavy rusty hair, piercing eyes and jut jaw, he has something of Johnny Appleseed about him, spreading heavy-duty alt-rawk to the masses.

"We drive each other," Langevin says of the flourishing underground scene. "We were in the same studio as Les Breastfeeders, we heard each other's stuff, and we all got energy from it. You see the difference between their first (disc) and the one coming up (mid-August), and you hear Malajube, and pow-pow – wow, it makes you work harder. I've worked with Les Dales (Hawerchuk), and we get to party together afterwards. Besides, we need to help each other, because when you make music that's more underground we need all the help we can get. It's too small a market to afford cliques."

Associated with bassist-producer-songwriter Fred Fortin since the age of 16, Langevin says: "He got me into music, and he was ahead of most everyone else in doing his own records." G500 premieres its new album, Le Temps au point mort (C4 Records) at the Spectrum tonight at 11. It's an unabashed kickass disc, multi-layered and tweaked, yet with a pre-eminent bass-heavy droning stage sound.

JUAN RODRIGUEZ

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The Frenglish frenzy rarely subsides with the singularly bizarre duo of Geneviève et Matthieu, who played outdoors Wednesday (at Le Mutale Pop Desjardins) and guested at Pierre Lapointe's Voût Rouge show at Metropolis last night. Geneviève Crépeau, a boxy babe wrapped in pink minidress and feathered boa, plays organ and erupts in vocal-erous yeahs. Guitarist Matthieu Dumont, eyes arched, looks like Lapointe's weirdo brother, as he continually mocked show-biz convention. Their Dalida tribute (Mourir sur scène) contrasted neatly with their "only hit" (Simili poulet). They're an inside joke you can't always get, but they're having so much absurd fun that it rubs off on the audience. Even the papier-mâché lamb-sitting beside them on stage made sense. Sort of.

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